

Masthead Logo

The Iowa Review

Volume 2
Issue 3 *Summer*

Article 34

1971

This Deep

Marvin Bell

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Bell, Marvin. "This Deep." *The Iowa Review* 2.3 (1971): 32-32. Web.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.1241>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.

THIS DEEP

What can't we say, and why not?
Is it these objects, such studied
couches and carpets wherein we sink,
the raised arm disappearing downwards
with its fisted message of going under,
as if this were water for smooth sailing?

The portside leans, the starboard leaps,
we topple the length of the rope rail;
the bell is hard in the wind, the wind is
soft and inviting and slaps us with a glove.
The glove is death, like the last of a costume
death makes it complete in this air, moving.

Death is moving.—We are self-conscious.
We have made this house our ship, we have
also seen each other as boats to come in.
From the death of the planet, which is a boat,
in this air which is a sea, in language
bubbled from the deep, we swim and say, "swim."